

STUDY OF A GREAT PRACTICA

Mrs. Donald McLean,

Mrs. William C. Whitney

How a Society Woman Learned a Lesson from a Delancey Street Mothers' Club.

MRS. DONALD McLEAN

"THE SIMPLE FORCE OF SINCERE
SYMPATHY IS THE ONLY THING
WHICH REALLY HELPS."

By Mrs. Donald McLean,

I OBJECT to the word "slumming" and to the process the University Settlement are so diametrically different in intention and endeavor that the ideas are without connection in my mind, as they should be in all minds which desire a real knowledge of the ends aimed at by the Settlement.

"Slumming" I do not characterize; but the work of the University Settlement is earnest, genuine, untheatrical, unexciting in its routine; in short, the veritable touch of human kind with human kind. And such touch it is impossible to attain without intimate knowledge of the daily life of whomsoever we would approach near to.

In this instance it is the other half, and grievous it is that, so cut in two by interests and aggrandizements are the people, even of this land of the free, that the halves should exist and we be forced to recognize the fact! That the two halves may, on some far off, fortunate day, grow together into the original whole, is the deep-lying hope and motive of such work as finds expression in the Settlement.

And what is the force which shall heal wide, gaping wounds in the body social? Which shall apply balm to the rancorous sore of unjust deprivation (from the standpoint of the suffering) on the one side and melt the cold indifference on the other?

The simple but irresistible force of sympathy.

Not the semi-condescending pity which offends its object by its very existence; but unaffected, human sympathy and love.

All the world has heard of Toynbee Hall, and now of this New York University Settlement. The "head worker" in the latter can give the details relating to it, which should be published.

From the point of view of a member of the Woman's Auxiliary I can only say that each feature of that oasis in the thickest teeming tenement district of the city is more refreshing and impressing than the other. Its "Penny Provident Society," where dark-eyed, bright-faced children learn to save instead of to squander; its decent library—oh! the god-gift of books to both halves!—the poor, gloomy gymnasium, yet a paradise to its frequenters, the various club rooms, in one of which I was peculiarly glad to see a portrait of General Washington. Above all and through all the permeating spirit of close, warm life with and of the people of the locality.

The crying need is for a new and proper building worthy to be a centre. The present one is ramshackle and the work has outgrown it.

Until we women of the Auxiliary can throw all else to the winds and give ourselves to the "other half"—until that day of grace comes to us, we should give ardent endeavor to the accomplishment of the rearing of such a building as will represent at least a moiety of our duty done.



MRS. WILLIAM C. WHITNEY

"I LOOK UPON MY EXPERIENCES AT THE SETTLEMENT
AS A MEANS OF EDUCATION TO MYSELF."

By Mrs. William C. Whitney.

WHEN I went to the first tea given by the Woman's Auxiliary of the University Settlement I expected to pour the tea for the poor people of the neighborhood, among whom the members of the Settlement are working. Otherwise I should not have gone. When I got there I found it was only a gathering of those whom the association wished to interest in the work.

However, I am very glad I went.

I look upon the experiences of that afternoon as a means of higher education to myself.

No work that I could possibly have done, no amount of money that I might have given could, I am sure, have been of as much benefit to others as what I saw and heard was to me.

Certainly the University Settlement has done a wonderful work,

